Target achieved by LIC

77. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that LIC of India have achieved in 1994-95 Rs. 55,472.12 crores of new business under 108-88 lakh policies and Rs. 11527.80 crore of premium income;

(b) if so, what are the target fixed for 1995-96 indicating in percentage of rural thrust as well as life fund; and

(c) whether Government have received complainsts from policy holders for non-payment of their maturity claims inspite of full payment of premium; if so, whether Government propose to set up in Inquiry Committee to look in to the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL): (a) LIC have informed that the new business done by them during 1994-95 was for a sum assured of Rs. 55468.82 crores under 108.88 lakhs policies and the total premium income received during this year was Rs. 11527.80 crores.

(b) LIC have informed that for the year 1995-96 they have fixed a target of Rs. 57750 crores for sum assured, 116 lakhs for the number of policies and Rs. 13724.42 crores for total premium income. The target for the rural business is 46% of total new policies and 40% of the total new business sum assured. LIC have further informed that they do not fix target in respect of Life Fund.

(c) LIC settles around 97% of the total maturity claims in time. However, some complaints, pertaining to maturity claims are received by the Government from time to time. These are followed up with LIC until satisfactory disposal. The number of such cases, however, is few and does not warrant setting up of an Inquiry Committee.

Loan by Bank in Act Culture Sector in Andhra Pradesh

78. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) the total loan amount released by the Nationalised Banks during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 till date in Agriculture Sector;

(b) the number of loan applications received from the agriculturists during the above period in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the total loan amount released by the Banks in the Agriculture sector of Andhra Pradesh during the above period and;

(d) the percentage of loan granted to agriculturists of the state in comparison to the National figure as a whose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) to (d) The total number of accounts and the total amount of loan disbursed by all scheduled commercial banks including nationalised banks towards direct finance for agriculture sector in Andhra Pradesh as also in the country, for the year ending June 1993 and June 1994 (latest available), as reported by Reserve Bank of India is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year ended	Andhra Pradesh		All India
	No. of A/cs (in lakhs)	Amount	Amount
June, 1993	883	678.62% (13.6%)*	4959.51
June, 1994	989	930.93 (17.2%)*	5399.89

(Percentage comparison to All India Figure).

The disbursement of agricultural loans made by Public Sector Banks in Andhra Pradesh during 1995-96 under the Special Agricultural Credit Plan (April-March) as on the 30.9.1995 is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Andhra Pradesh	All India
903.75 (18.5%)*	4874.91

*(Percentage comparison to All India Figure).

Handicrafts Products

79. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appeared in the 'National Herald' of January 26, 1996 captioned, "Stress on handicrafts products";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news item which appeared in the 'National Herald' of January 26, 1996 captioned, "Stress on handicrafts products" is the press release issued by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts on the eve of the inauguration of the five day Indian Handicrafts & Gifts Fair held in New Delhi. In the release, the council highlighted the details regarding the nature of products to be displayed, the number of Indian manufacturers and experters likely to participate and the expected quantum of business to be generated etc.

(c) As the handicrafts sector earns valuable foreign exchange for the country, the Government is making all concerted efforts towards exploring new markets and promotion of lesser know crafts. The Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair, has become an annual international event of impressive magnitude. Since its inception in the year 1994, the Fair has helped in attracting more and more foreign buyers and generating business opportunities in the international markets.

NTPC Power Plants in Andhra Pradesh

80. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to enhance the capacity of NTPC Power plants in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to improve the functioining of power plants of NTPC in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has submitted feasibility report for Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Project Stage-III (500 MW) in Andhra. Pradesh to Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in March, 1995 for techno-economic appraisal. The processing of the Project is however, held up because of non-availability of coal. In addition, feasibility reports for coal based Simhadri Thermal Power Project (2×500 MW) and nephtha based Hyderabad Metro Combined Cycle Power Project (650 MW) in Andhra Pradesh submitted by NTPC to CEA are also under techno-economic appraisal by CEA.

(c) Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Project (2100 MW) of NTPC has been operating at high availability/Plant Load Factor (PLF). PLF will be further improved on availability of sufficient coal for the plant.